

son at the helm, the company outgrew its home of 27 years in Southwest Harbor a decade ago and now operates a complete yacht service company just down the road at its present facility.

During the company's near three decades in the Maine boatbuilding arena, Morris Yachts has become a trusted and dependable name for hundreds of clients. Its yachts generally range from 29 to 62 feet in length, and provide customers with semicustom boats of superb quality and beautiful woodworking. A testament to the Morris's remarkable craftsmanship, there are presently over 269 Morris Yachts sailing all over the world. Morris Yachts also has a connection to Hollywood, as its Pemaquid Friendship sloop was utilized as a prop in the popular film "The Truman Show."

Most recently, Morris Yachts has been asked to build four 44-foot sailing vessels for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy for use in training programs. With this new contract, Morris Yachts will be able to hire up to 20 employees, including mechanics, electricians, carpenters, and composite craftspeople this fall to work on the Coast Guard project, bringing the total number of Morris employees close to 100. While the initial contract asks for four boats, the Coast Guard Academy hopes to potentially double its order.

Not only does the company provide a valuable service to its local community, but with this contract, Morris Yachts will be able to serve the entire Nation. Providing ships to the U.S. Coast Guard is a true honor, and the firm's critical work will better equip our Nation's bravest men and women to protect our shores.

Despite the difficulty facing countless yacht manufacturers over the past year and a half, Morris Yachts has continued to produce sturdy and reliable boats. As a result, the company has been nominated for the 2010 Boat of the Year Award by *Cruising World* and *Sailing World* magazines. I congratulate everyone at Morris Yachts for this honor and look forward to the announcement of the award in January.

The Morris family story serves as an inspiration to all who pursue the American dream. I commend the Morris family for being chosen by our Nation's military to build these watercraft and congratulate them for their well-deserved accolades. Just as the colonists on the Kennebec River did centuries ago, I am certain the Morris family will continue the great tradition of Maine shipbuilding as they have for the past 37 years. Their success is proof that commitment, resolve, and hard work still lead to great things.●

RECOGNIZING NEW URBAN ARTS

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I honor New Urban Arts of Providence, RI, which has been honored by the White House with the 2009 Coming Up Taller Award, the Nation's highest

honor for out-of-school arts and humanities programs. New Urban Arts is a model for what the arts can do in the lives of our urban youth, giving them the opportunity to explore the limitless possibilities of their own imaginations and helping them apply what they discover to goals they set for their futures.

New Urban Arts was founded in 1997 as a collaboration between local high school and college students, with the support of the Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University. It has grown from those 14 students in a loft at Grace Church in downtown Providence into an organization that serves over 300 high school students every year.

The New Urban Arts afterschool and summer programs provide these students with the opportunity to work with established local artists who act as both mentors and peers, with the young people creating new works of art that reflect their experiences. We know that for youth who are on their own after school, the hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are a danger zone, a peak time for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs and alcohol. Not only does New Urban Arts give youth in Providence a place to go, it provides them with a safe space where they can express themselves through many different art mediums and with people who can nurture their talent. This includes members from Rhode Island's acclaimed arts community, which has long understood the need to invest in our state's youth and arts education. And luckily for the people of Rhode Island, the New Urban Arts gallery and exhibition spaces allow all of us to share in the joy of that new talent.

Our investment in the youth of Providence has paid dividends. Three-quarters of the students who participate in the New Urban Arts program are low-income and over half live in neighborhoods where the poverty rate is four times the national rate. Despite these challenges, over 90 percent of the seniors in this group graduate high school and attend college. When I was attorney general of Rhode Island, I saw what too often happened to students who did not know how to set goals for themselves or understand the importance of education—they ended up in the juvenile justice system. New Urban Arts helps students chart a course toward the future by inspiring them to create and introducing them to adults who are invested in them and treat them as equals.

This wonderful model has attracted national attention, including this most recent honor, the 2009 Coming Up Taller Award. This award recognizes afterschool and out-of-school arts and humanities programs for youth in traditionally underserved communities. It honors programs that foster the creative and intellectual development of our Nation's children. The ideals set out by the Coming Up Taller Award are certainly met by New Urban Arts, and

I know that they will build on this honor by helping more students.

I would like congratulate all of the students and mentors who make New Urban Arts such a dynamic and innovative program, as well as its executive director, Jason Yoon, and the chairwoman of the New Urban Arts Board of Directors, Myrth York. Their hard work and dedication to the youth of Providence and to the arts will ensure that New Urban Arts continues to help our young people realize their potential into the future, and to serve as model for the rest of the Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3157. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, as the "Max J. Beilke Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 3949. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, and the Servicemember Civil Relief Act, to make certain improvements in the laws relating to benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 475. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.

S. 509. A bill to authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3157. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, as the "Max J. Beilke Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient